Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149

FOIAb3b

[redacted]

ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH - 24 FEBRUARY 1967

[redacted]

CPYRGHT

EDITORIAL

A Holding Report

The so-called "preliminary report" by President Johnson's panel investigating the CIA brouhaha is a holding operation, designed to suggest that whatever is wrong with CIA activities Mr. Johnson is not to blame.

The report, issued with uncommon promptitude, carefully notes that the CIA's manifold subsidizing of educational, labor, political and economic groups is not new at all, but faithfully follows out policies laid down by the National Security Council in 1952 and 1954. The National Security Council is simply another name for the top officials of the Executive branch of the Government.

It is very much to be hoped that the final report of Mr. Katzenbach's committee will probe much deeper than the first one. The fact that CIA has been following "approved" policies and that three other Administrations approved them does not in any sense validate the policies. Indeed, that is just what is wrong. The CIA machine, once started, has been automatically turning over without anybody ever stopping to ask whether it was doing the right things in the right way.

If not the Johnson Administration, then certainly Congress, ought to be satisfied with nothing less than a thorough and searching review pointing toward reducing the intelligence agency's scope to intelligence.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Puzzle

What puzzles me is how anyone can call anything coming out of CIA "intelligence."

James Winston
Sacramento, Calif.

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000800070039-8